

Mme. X, Red Spies Foiled, Belgians Say

Brussels, April 19 (Reuters)

— Belgian counterespionage men who have foiled a Russian plot to obtain Nato secrets by using a mysterious Belgian woman called Mme. X police said here today.

They said Mme. X was planted by the Russians in an American

She then returned to Belgium in an effort to disengage herself from Soviet spying activities, but was soon approached by Soviet Embassy Third Secretary Vitali Dmitrievitch Balachov, who told her to go back to work inside the American Embassy, Police said.

After quarreling with Balachov, Mme. X left her embassy job, and it was then that Ogorodnikov came on the scene, directing her to switch her attention to SHAPE, police said.



Anatoli Trifonovitch as he boarded plane in Brussels.

embassy in Africa five years ago with instructions to apply for work with Supreme Headquarters, Allied Powers in Europe in order to photograph secret military papers.

The spy plan—described by a Belgian diplomat as “a truly James Bond-like affair” — allegedly involved a third secretary at the Soviet Embassy, a Russian businessman and the Belgian correspondent of the Soviet news agency Tass.

A government source said today the attempt was foiled when security men arrested the journalist, Anatoli Ogorodnikov, yesterday and escorted to a Moscow-bound Aeroflot Airliner.

Police said Mme. X met a member of a Soviet embassy in an unnamed African country in 1962. He taught her Russian and persuaded her to take a job in the American embassy, from where she “supplied the Soviet diplomat with information concerning the morality of the embassy personnel,” the police said.